

# Make Church a Part of Your Life

## WEEKLY SERMONETTE

### "Were You Born in a Barn?"

By Pastor Kirk Kasson, Almena Congregational Church

Christmas gifts - Shopping, buying, hiding, wrapping and waiting. Christmas bleary eyes. Footed P.J.s presents! This one's for me! This one's for you! Anticipation. Unwrapping. Opening. Does someone have a pocket knife? Excitement, "I love it!" Hugs, smiles, cocoa, eggnog, cinnamon rolls. Christmas.

Christmas - Young girl, angel. "Don't be afraid." Prophesy, pledge, fear, faith.

Fiance - Confusion, explanation, disbelief, disappointment, fear, anger. Change of plans.

A dream - An angel. "Don't be afraid." Fear. Belief, trust, Change of plans. Marriage.

Taxes - Acensus. A Journey. A ninety mile walk with a pregnant woman. Donkey? Probably not. Bathroom stops? Plenty. And not a 7-11 in sight. Tired.

We're there. Crowded village becomes a city. Find us a place to stay, I'm so tired. No room at the inn. Rest here. Sleep.

"Joseph, it's time." Eyes open. Panic. Fear. Grab the suitcase? Drive to the hospital? Uh, no.

Get a doctor? A midwife? No. Find a shelter? A stable. It'll have to do. Now what? Wait, comfort. "Hold my hand." "Joseph, I'm scared."

"I know. Don't be afraid." Wait. Worry. Push! Wait. Worry. Push! Pray.

"Joseph, would you get that goat out of my face!" Shoo

the goat. Push? Rest. Breathe. Wait. Worry. Why now? Why here? What if something goes wrong? Pray. The goat is back. Tie up the stupid goat. Push. Hours. Hand holding, talking. Praying. Sweating. Comforting, waiting, pushing. The head. "I see the head!"

"He has hair!" "You can do it. We're almost there!" We who?

The shoulders. The baby. Fluids, umbilical cord. It's a boy!

He's excited. She's exhausted. She holds out her arms. He gives her their son. She holds him. She smiles. Jesus. His name is Jesus.

For unto you a son is born.

Unto you a son is given. And the word became flesh. And we beheld his glory. His name is Jesus.

Shepherds - "Shepherds?" They want to see the baby. How do they know about the baby? "I have no idea. Do you want me to send them away?" No. They can see the baby.

Shepherds - Baby. Swaddling clothes. Manger. Check, check, check. That angel was right. Angel? Did you say something about an angel?

Yeah. There was this angel. Terrifying. Huge. Holy. First thing he said was "Do not be afraid." Then he told us to come to town, that a girl had a baby that is the Messiah. The Savior. The Christ.

He said we'd know it was the baby if we found it wrapped in clothes and lying in a feed bunk. So we figure this must be him. He's beautiful ma'am. thank you. They bow before the baby. They say a prayer.

They're worshipping my baby. They stand. They give their blessings and go back to their pastures.

Mary, what do you think about their story? They said they saw an angel. I know. I've seen an angel. I have too. He told me "Do not be afraid." And Mary pondered all these things in her heart.

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us. And we beheld his glory. Glory to the only begotten, full of grace and truth. Merry Christmas.

## A New Year A New Life

A brand new year is beginning! Can we change those unhealthy habits that have been a part of us for so long? Can we keep our New Years' resolutions? There is one resolution that can be a great help to us as we try to reach our desired goals. That is the practice of attending our chosen house of worship each week to give thanks and praise to God. Through prayer and meditation, He will provide the strength and guidance we need to make positive changes in our lives. With God's help we can have a new life!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Luke 2:21-40	John 1:19-51	John 2:1-12	John 3:1-21	Hebrews 1:1-14	Hebrews 2:1-18	Romans 1:1-17

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